Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 CU-06
STR-07 AGRE-00 OMB-01 /097 W
----------100576 312331Z /64
R 302153Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9976
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS MONTREAL 0218

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: FEDERAL LIBERALS MEET IN MONTREAL

1. ABOUT 200 REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL LIBERAL ORGANIZATIONS FROM SOME 50 QUEBEC RIDINGS MET IN MONTREAL OVER THE WEEKEND TO DISCUSS POLICY ORIENTATIONS. THEIR CONCLUSIONS WERE NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM POLICIES LONG-ESPOUSED BY PARTY BUT SOME EMPHASES WERE GREATER THAN OTHERS AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO GET FULL HEARING AT COUNTRY-WIDE PARTY GATHERING IN OTTAWA NEXT MONTH.

2. MOST IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS WERE: THERE MUST BE A REFORM OF THE CONSTITUTION BUT WITH NO SPECIAL STATUS FOR QUEBEC WHILE TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE RIGHS OF THE "TWO FOUNDING PEOPLES"; OVER-LAPPING JURISDICTIONS SHOULD BE AVOIDED IN THE INTEREST OF INCREASED EFFICIENCY AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT; FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN THE AREAS OF CULTURE, JUSTICE, EDUCATION AND ASSOCIATION MUST BE GUARANTEED IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

3. WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS APPARENTLY RANGED BEYOND ISSUES RESOLVED AT PLENARY, FOR EXAMPLE QUESTION OF FEDERAL REFERENDUM,
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WHICH WILL BE TAKEN UP AT OTTAWA SESSION IN FEBRUARY. THEY ALSO CALLED ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INSIST ON THE FLYING OF CANADIAN FLAG ON FEDERAL BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS OF ENTERPRISES RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDS AND TO SEEK TO PERSUADE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT TO FLY THAT FLAG ON SCHOOLS IN THIS PROVINCE. THEY ENDORSED VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT AT SIXTY, THE JOBS THUS OPENED TO BE FILLED BY UNEMPLOYED YOUTH (UNDER 25) BUT THE DROPPING MANDATORY RETIRE-

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MENT AT 65. THEY ALSO SOUGHT EXEMPTION FROM TAXES FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM COMPANIES FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF EXISTENCE, THE APPLICATION OF THE MINIMUM WAGE TO PERSONS NOT NOW COVERED SUCH AS DOMESTIC EMPLOYEES, A 25 PERCENT LIMITATION ON IMPORTS OF TEXTILES,

RETENTION OF THE ANTI-INFLATION BOARD, AND A LIMITATION ON THE POWERS OF THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT BOARD.

4. COMMENT: FEW IF ANY OF THESE PROPOSITIONS SHOULD BE SURPRISING TO OTTAWA, THOUGH SOME (E.G. TEXTILE IMPORTATIONS) MAY NOT FLY IN DELEGATIONS FROM THE WESTERN PROVINCES.
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